

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

5     Claims 1, 5-10, 13, 15, 34, 38-43, 46 and 48 are pending. Claims 1 and 34 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Claims 2-4, 11-12, 14, 16-33, 35-37, 44-45, 47, 49- 57 have previously been canceled

Claims 1, 5-10, 13, 15, 34, 38-43, 46, and 48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C.  
10     112, first paragraph. The examiner objects that the phrase "the polyelectrolyte is from 2,000 up to 10,000 weight average molecular weight" was not described in the specification in such a way as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Applicants respectfully point  
15     out to the examiner that this range is within the range given on page 19, example 2 of the specification. Furthermore, this is the same range stated in the issued claims of the parent application which issued as U.S. Patent Number 6,740,689.

20     Under the 112 rejection, the examiner also objects to the fact that there is no disclosure of "weight average molecular weight" in the specification as originally filed. As the examiner requests, the applicants submit herewith a declaration prepared by inventor, Shirley Lee, stating that the molecular weight referred to in the present invention is in fact weight average molecular weight  
25     and in addition discloses how the molecular weight was measured. This declaration is a copy of a declaration submitted in the parent application.

Claims 1, 5-10, 13, 15, 34, 38-43, 46 and 48 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C.  
112, second paragraph. The examiner objects to the phrase in claims 1 and  
30     34, "the polyelectrolyte is from 2,000 up to 10,000 weight average molecular weight". As the examiner suggests, claims 1 and 34 have therefore been amended to rewrite the phrase dealing with the weight average molecular

weight of polyelectrolyte so that it reads "the weight average molecular weight of the polyelectrolyte is from 2,000 up to 10,000".

5 In view of the above amendments, arguments, and the Declaration submitted under Rule 132, the applicants respectfully request that the above rejections be withdrawn.

A prompt and positive response is respectfully requested.

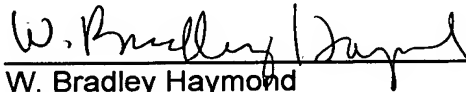
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Respectfully submitted,

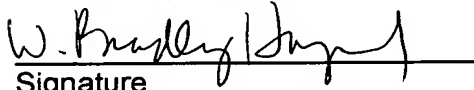
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